

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and on various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. Audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za where you can also sign up to receive future bulletins by e-mail.

In the news, today:

THE SARL YL SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

THE 2020 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION ON 3 AND 4 APRIL

and

**THE SARL VHF/UHF AND THE RSGB COMMONWEALTH CONTESTS
NEXT WEEKEND**

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE SARL FEATURING BIG AT HOBBY-X 2020

The SARL is featuring big at Hobby-X 2020 which opened its doors on Thursday 6 March 2020 and is still drawing big crowds. Hobby-X is at the Ticketpro dome in Northgate, a stone's throw from the National Amateur Radio centre and will be in full swing today from 09:00 - 17:00. The SARL stand features a state-of-the-art HF station and in cooperation with AMSAT SA, an OSCAR Qatar 100 satellite station. Other displays include radios from yesteryear featuring the Antique Wireless Association, Hammies display and a build your own project workstation. The Secunda Amateur Radio Club display features BACAR and AMSAT SA the AfriCUBE satellite. Catch ZS95SARL from Hobby-X.

THE SARL YL SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

Today, 8 March is International Women's Day and the first leg of the SARL YL Sprint. The Sprint runs from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC this afternoon with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. The exchange is a RS(T) report and YL or YM. A QSO between two Young Ladies is worth 5 points, a QSO between a Young Lady and a Young Man is worth 3 points and a QSO between two Young Men is worth 1 point. There are no Old Men! Submit your renamed log sheet by

23:59 CAT on Sunday 15 March to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za. The rules are on page 56 of the Blue Book.

SARL NEWS VIA MAILCHIMP

The Afrikaans and English SARL News Bulletins are being sent out in one e-mail using the Mailchimp system. The News Bulletin for Sunday 1 March was sent out on Saturday 29 February to 1 116 e-mail addresses. 13 of these e-mail addresses bounced and 1 103 received the bulletin, but only 464 recipients opened the e-mail. Please contact the SARL Secretary to join the mailing list.

THE 2020 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION ON 3 AND 4 APRIL

SARL National Convention will take place at the Wanderers Conference facility in Illovo, Johannesburg with the SARL Unlocking Amateur Radio Technology Symposium on Friday afternoon 3 April and the SARL AGM and the SARL 95 Celebration and Awards Dinner Dance on Saturday 4 April. The programme for the Symposium and the AGM is available in the 2020 National Convention Booklet. The Registration form for the weekend and the Booklet is available via the links on the front page of the League web site.

The Symposium programme features presentations on many aspects of Amateur Radio which are geared for delegates to take home new insights and ideas on how to enjoy their hobby more than ever before. One of the highlights is a presentation entitled “Who says the bands are dead?” Brian Jacobs ZS6YZ will show how beacons can excite your participation in VHF activity and Chris Burger ZS6EZ will provide an overview of contesting, along with practical hints on how you can go about getting involved.

60 M FOR SENEGAL

Paul Gaskell, G4MWO the Editor of the 5 MHz Newsletter reports that Yves F5PRU/6W1TA in Senegal has been informed by ARTP, the Senegalese Telecom Regulatory Authority, that the new WRC-15 Amateur Secondary Allocation 5 351.5 – 5 366.5 kHz is now allowed in the country and that the IARU Region 1 bandplan should be used with a maximum power limit available of 15 W EIRP. Yves has been living in Senegal for 18 months and he is mainly active around 5 354 kHz on CW and sometimes on 5 357 kHz using FT8. He lives near Dakar and although he suffers from QRM early evenings, this lessens later in the night.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SARL VHF/UHF ANALOGUE CONTEST

The first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest runs from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 14 March to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 15 March 2020 with CW, SSB and FM on 6, 4 and 2 metres, 70 and 23 cm and higher. You can participate as a Single Operator, a Multi operator, a Portable/Field Station, a Limited 4 Hour or a FM Only station. The exchange is a RS(T) and a six digit maidenhead locator. There are band, grid and distance multipliers which the excel log sheet will

calculate. Submit your log sheet by 6 April 2020 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za. Find the rules on page 46 of the 2020 Blue Book.

THE RESULTS OF THE PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST

The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society has released the results of the PEARS VHF/UHF Contest run in January.

In the Analogue category Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ took top honours with 194 851 points. Carl, ZS6CBQ also took the top place in the Digital category with 106 467 points, while Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS took first place in the FM category with 1 400 points.

The longest distance worked on a band was between Andre Botes, ZS2ACP in KF26SB and Paul Smit, ZS6NK in KG47LI, a distance of 1 302 km.

PEARS would like to thank those who took part and sent in a log. The SARL VHF/UHF contest next weekend is a good time to implement what you learnt during the PEARS VHF/UHF contest.

THE RSGB COMMONWEALTH CONTEST

Call "CQ BERU" to find other Commonwealth participants from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 14 March to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 15 March 2020. It is CW only on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. The exchange is an RST plus a serial number starting at 1. HQ stations additionally send 'HQ' which must be logged. If you are not sent a serial number, log a zero. Each QSO scores 5 points. A bonus of 20 points is earned for each of the first three contacts with a Commonwealth Call Area on each band. Find the complete set of rules at www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/rberu.shtml

THE MAGALIES RAC TO DISCUSS THE NANO VECTOR NETWORK ANALYSER

The Magalies Radio Amateur Club holds its monthly meeting on the third Saturday of the month with very interesting technical discussions as part of the programme. The next meeting will take place on Saturday 21 March at the Club House on the corner of Mills and Breyer streets in Waverley, Pretoria. Thys, ZS6MJM will discuss the very interesting subject of NANO VNA or the NANO Vector Network Analyser. Members of all radio clubs are welcome. There will be enough to eat and drink after the meeting and lots of time to discuss amateur matters with fellow amateur friends. More information is available on the website at www.zs6mrk.org

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspots visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some

good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – International Women’s Day, catch ZS95SARL from Hobby-X and the SARL YL Sprint

14 and 15 March – the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest and the RSGB Commonwealth contest

17 March – Highway ARC meeting

18 March – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

20 March – Autumn equinox and provincial schools close

21 March – Human Rights Day and the Magalies RAC meeting

21 and 22 March – the BARTG HF RTTY contest

28 March – the Cape Town ARC meeting

28 and 29 March – the CQ WPX SSB Contest

31 March – the provincial schools open

2 April – the SARL 80 m QSO Party

3 and 4 April – the 2020 SARL National Convention

4 April – the RaDAR Challenge

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

Today, 8 March is International Women’s Day and the first leg of the SARL YL Sprint. The Sprint runs from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC this afternoon with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. The exchange is a RS(T) report and YL or YM. The rules are on page 56 of the Blue Book.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the news inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly amateur radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower

side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.